

IN THE CLAIMS

Applicants have submitted a new complete set of claims showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

1. (Previously presented) A binding strap for securing a snowboard boot within a binding baseplate, the binding strap being mountable to the baseplate by a mounting strap and further being releasably connectable to an engagement strap extending from the baseplate, the binding strap comprising:

a flexible binding strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the engagement strap to adjust tightening of the binding strap about the boot when the boot is in the binding, said flexible binding strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the mounting strap therein.

2. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 1, further comprising the mounting strap, said mounting strap having a first end configured and arranged to be received within said pocket, and a second end configured and arranged to be secured to the baseplate.

3. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 2, wherein said mounting strap is a variable position mounting strap having a plurality of holes therein.

4. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 3, wherein said mounting strap is secured within said pocket by at least one fastener which extends through one of the plurality of holes within said mounting strap.

5. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 2, wherein said flexible binding strap member includes an opening formed therein, said opening forming an entrance to said pocket and configured and arranged to receive said first end of said mounting strap.

6. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 1, wherein said pocket is internally disposed within said flexible binding strap member.

7. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 1, wherein said pocket is disposed along an inside portion of said flexible binding strap member.

8. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 1, wherein said flexible binding strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the engagement strap.

9. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 8, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the engagement strap.

10. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 1, wherein said flexible binding strap member is a unitary binding member.

11. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 1, wherein said flexible binding strap member is curved so as to conform to the snowboard boot.

12. (Original) The binding strap according to claim 2, further including a second pocket configured and arranged to receive a first end of a second mounting strap.

13. (Previously presented) A strap for engaging a snowboarding boot, the strap being securable to a mounting strap and further being releasably connectable to an engagement strap, the strap comprising:

a flexible strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the engagement strap to adjust the relative positions of the flexible strap member and the engagement strap and to conform at least the flexible strap member to a portion of the surface of the snowboarding boot, said flexible strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the mounting strap therein.

14. (Original) The strap according to claim 13, further comprising the mounting strap, said mounting strap having a first end configured and arranged to be received within said pocket.

15. (Original) The strap according to claim 14, wherein said mounting strap is a variable position mounting strap having a plurality of holes therein.

16. (Original) The strap according to claim 15, wherein said mounting strap is secured within said pocket by at least one fastener which extends through one of the plurality of holes within said mounting strap.

17. (Original) The strap according to claim 14, wherein said flexible strap member includes an opening formed therein, said opening forming an entrance to said pocket and configured and arranged to receive said first end of said mounting strap.

18. (Original) The strap according to claim 13, wherein said pocket is internally disposed within said flexible strap member.

19. (Original) The strap according to claim 13, wherein said pocket is disposed along an inside portion of said flexible strap member.

20. (Original) The strap according to claim 13, wherein said flexible strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the engagement strap.

21. (Original) The strap according to claim 20, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the engagement strap.

22. (Original) The strap according to claim 13, wherein said flexible strap member is curved so as to conform to the snowboarding boot.

23. (Currently amended) A strap for engaging a snowboarding boot, the strap comprising:

a boot-engaging strap member configured and arranged to engage with a front portion of the snowboarding boot, the boot-engaging strap member being releasably connectable to an engagement strap;

a mounting strap having a first end securable to said boot-engaging strap member; and

wherein said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap are moveable relative to each other so that the length of said strap is selectively adjustable by a user; and wherein said mounting strap is releasably securable in one of a plurality of positions to said boot-engaging strap member by at least one fastener which extends through at least one of a plurality of a corresponding hole[[s]] disposed in at least one of said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap.

24. (Previously presented) The strap according to claim 23, wherein said strap is releasably connectable to an engagement strap, and wherein said boot-engaging strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion of said boot-engaging strap member, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the engagement strap.

25. (Original) The strap according to claim 24, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the engagement strap.

26. (Previously presented) The strap according to claim 23, wherein said boot-engaging strap member is a unitary strap member.

27. (Previously presented) The strap according to claim 23, wherein said boot-engaging strap member is pre-shaped so as to conform to the snowboarding boot.

28. (Original) The strap according to claim 23, wherein said mounting strap is a variable position mounting strap.

29. (Original) The strap according to claim 25, wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with a plurality of serrations disposed on the first end of the engagement strap.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of adjusting a binding strap over a snowboarding boot, the binding strap being mounted to a binding baseplate and releasably connectable to an engagement strap mounted to the baseplate, the binding strap comprising a binding strap member and a mounting strap releasably securable to the binding strap member in one of a plurality of positions, the mounting strap including a first section having a mounting feature and a second section having a plurality of holes, the method comprising acts of:

adjusting a position of the binding strap member relative to the mounting strap;

securing the mounting strap to the binding strap member in said position by extending a fastener through one of the plurality of holes; and

engaging the binding strap to the engagement strap to conform to the boot and secure the boot to the baseplate.

31. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 30, further comprising an act of mounting the mounting strap to the binding baseplate using the mounting feature.

32. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 30, further comprising an act of inserting at least a portion of the first section of the mounting strap through a portion of the binding strap member.

33. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 32, wherein the portion of the binding strap member includes an opening, and wherein the act of inserting at least a portion of the first section of the mounting strap through a portion of the binding strap member comprises an act of inserting the portion of the mounting strap through the opening.

34. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 30, wherein the binding strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, and wherein the act of engaging comprises an act of engaging the buckle with a first section of the engagement strap.

35. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 34, wherein the buckle is a ratcheting buckle, and wherein the act of engaging further comprises an act of incrementally adjusting an engagement position of the engagement strap and the binding strap member.

36. (Previously presented) A binding strap for securing a snowboarding boot within a binding base, the binding strap being mountable to the base and releasably connectable to an engagement strap extending from the base, the binding strap comprising:

a boot-engaging strap member configured and arranged to be releasably connected to the engagement strap and to secure the snowboarding boot to the base, the boot-engaging strap member having a contour; and

a mounting strap having a first section releasably securable to said boot-engaging strap member via at least one fastener and a second section configured and arranged to engage the binding base, said first section being disposed closer to a first end of said mounting strap than to a second end of said mounting strap;

wherein said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap are moveable relative to each other so that a length of said binding strap is selectively adjustable by a user, at least one of said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap having a plurality of holes, each hole being adapted to receive one of the at least one fastener to releasably secure said first section of said mounting strap to said boot-engaging strap member; and

wherein, when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, said first end of said mounting strap conforms to said contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

37. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, wherein said contour of said boot-engaging strap member conforms to a contour of the snowboarding boot when said boot-engaging strap member secures the snowboarding boot in the binding.

38. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, wherein said contour of said boot-engaging strap member is pre-shaped so as to conform to a contour of the snowboarding boot.

39. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, wherein said boot-engaging strap member includes a buckle mounted thereto, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first section of the engagement strap.

40. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 39, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the first section of the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the binding strap.

41. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 40, wherein the first section of the engagement strap includes a plurality of serrations, and wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with the plurality of serrations.

42. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, wherein a portion of said mounting strap is insertable through a portion of said boot-engaging strap member such that when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, said first end of said mounting strap conforms to said contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

43. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 36, further comprising means for, when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, conforming said first end of said mounting strap to a contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

44. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 42, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an opening, said portion of said mounting strap being insertable through said opening.

45. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 44, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes top and bottom walls that defines a top and a bottom of said opening.

46. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 45, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides extending between said top and bottom walls.

47. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 46, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an end extending between said top and bottom walls so that said opening is open only on one end.

48. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 44, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides.

49. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 44, wherein said opening comprises a slit.

50. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 44, in combination with the binding.

51. (Withdrawn) A method of adjusting a binding strap over a snowboarding boot, the binding strap being mounted to the base and releasably connectable to an engagement strap mounted to the base, the binding strap comprising a boot-engaging strap member having a contour and a mounting strap releasably securable to the boot-engaging strap member via at least one fastener, the mounting strap having a first section having a plurality of holes, and a second section mounted to the binding base, the method comprising acts of:

adjusting a position of the mounting strap relative to the boot-engaging strap member while ensuring that the end of the mounting strap conforms to the contour of the boot-engaging strap member; and

securing the mounting strap to the binding strap member in said position by extending the at least one fastener through at least one of the plurality of holes.

52. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 51, wherein the mounting strap has an end adjacent the first section, and wherein the act of adjusting a position of the mounting strap relative to the boot-engaging strap member while ensuring that the end of the mounting strap conforms to the contour of the boot-engaging strap member comprises an act of inserting at least

a portion of the first section of the mounting strap through a portion of the boot-engaging strap member.

53. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 52, wherein the mounting strap has an end adjacent the first section, wherein the portion of the boot-engaging strap member includes an opening, and wherein the act of inserting at least a portion of the first section of the mounting strap through a portion of the boot-engaging strap member comprises inserting the end of the mounting strap through the opening.

54. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 51, wherein the binding strap member includes a buckle mounted thereto and wherein the method further comprises an act of engaging the buckle with a first section of the engagement strap.

55. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 54, wherein the buckle is a ratcheting buckle, and wherein the method further comprises an act of incrementally adjusting an engagement position of the first section of the engagement strap and the binding strap member.

56. (Previously presented) A binding strap for securing a snowboarding boot within a binding base, the binding strap being mountable to the base and releasably connectable to an engagement strap extending from the base, the binding strap comprising:

a boot-engaging strap member configured and arranged to be releasably connected to the engagement strap and to secure the snowboarding boot to the binding;

a mounting strap having a first section releasably securable to said boot-engaging strap member and a second section configured and arranged to engage the binding base; and

at least two engagement elements to engage the mounting strap with the boot-engaging strap;

wherein said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap are moveable relative to each other so that the length of said binding strap is selectively adjustable by a user, at least one of said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap having a plurality of adjustment holes, each hole being adapted to receive one of the at least two engagement elements

therethrough to adjustably engage the first section of said mounting strap with said boot-engaging strap member.

57. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, wherein said boot-engaging strap member includes a buckle mounted thereto, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first section of the engagement strap.

58. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 57, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the first section of the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the engagement strap.

59. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 58, wherein the first section of the engagement strap includes a plurality of serrations and wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with said plurality of serrations.

60. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, wherein each of said engagement elements comprises a fastener.

61. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, wherein each of said engagement elements comprises a screw.

62. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, wherein a portion of said mounting strap is insertable through a portion of said boot-engaging strap member.

63. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 62, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an opening, said portion of said mounting strap being insertable through said opening.

64. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 63, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes top and bottom walls that define a top and a bottom of said opening.

65. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 64, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides extending between said top and bottom walls.

66. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 65, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an end extending between said top and bottom walls so that said opening is open only on one end.

67. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 63, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides.

68. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 63, wherein said opening comprises a slit.

69. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 56, in combination with the binding.

70. (Currently amended) A binding strap for securing a snowboarding boot within a binding base, the binding strap comprising:

a binding strap member configured and arranged and to secure the snowboarding boot in the binding, the binding strap having a first end configured and arranged to be releasably connectable to the base, the binding strap member further having a second end; and

a mounting strap having a first section releasably securable with said second end of said binding strap member via at least one fastener and a second section configured and arranged to engage the binding base, at least one of said binding strap member and said mounting strap having a plurality of adjustment holes, ~~each adjustment positions, at least one~~ hole being adapted to receive ~~one of the at least one a corresponding~~ fastener to adjustably secure the first section of said mounting strap to said second end of said binding strap member ~~in one of the plurality of adjustment positions~~, said binding strap member and said mounting strap being moveable relative to each other so that the length of said binding strap is selectively adjustable by a user;

wherein a portion of said mounting strap is insertable through a portion of said binding strap member.

71. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein the binding includes an engagement strap mounted to the binding base at a first section of the engagement strap, and wherein said binding strap member includes a buckle mounted thereto, said buckle being configured and arranged to engage a second section of an engagement strap.

72. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 71, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of said binding strap.

73. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 72, wherein the first section of the engagement strap includes a plurality of serrations and wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with the plurality of serrations.

74. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said mounting strap insertable through said portion of said binding strap member includes an end of said mounting strap, and wherein when said portion of said mounting strap is inserted through said portion of said binding strap member, said end of said mounting strap is maintained in close proximity to said binding strap member.

75. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said mounting strap insertable through said portion of said binding strap member includes an end of said mounting strap, and wherein when said portion of said mounting strap is inserted through said portion of said binding strap member, said end of said mounting strap conforms to a contour of said binding strap member.

76. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said mounting strap insertable through said portion of said binding strap member includes an end of said mounting strap, and wherein said binding strap further comprises means for, when

said portion of said mounting strap is inserted through said portion of said binding strap member, maintaining said end of said mounting strap in close proximity to said binding strap member.

77. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said mounting strap insertable through said portion of said binding strap member includes an end of said mounting strap, and wherein said binding strap further comprises means for, when said portion of said mounting strap is inserted through said portion of said binding strap member, conforming said end of said mounting strap to a contour of said binding strap member.

78. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes an opening, and wherein said portion of said mounting strap is insertable through said opening.

79. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 78, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes top and bottom walls that define a top and a bottom of said opening.

80. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 79, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes sides extending between said top and bottom walls.

81. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 80, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes an end extending between said top and bottom walls so that said opening is open only on one end.

82. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 78, wherein said portion of said binding strap member includes sides.

83. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 78, wherein said opening comprises a slit.

84. (Previously presented) The binding strap according to claim 70, wherein the binding includes an engagement strap mounted to the binding base at a first section of the engagement strap, and wherein said binding strap member is releasably connectable to the engagement strap.

85. (Previously presented) A first strap component, adapted to contact a snowboard boot, the first strap component including means to engage a second strap component, the first strap component comprising:

a first strap piece that is adapted to overlie and contact a portion of the snowboard boot and includes the means for adjustably engaging the second strap component;

an elongate second strap piece that is movably mounted along its length direction to the first strap piece in that

one of the first and second strap pieces has a plurality of mating features adapted to engage with a corresponding mating feature on the other of the first and second strap pieces to enable the first and second strap pieces to be secured against any relative lengthwise movement in a plurality of engagement positions; and

an end of the second strap piece being inserted through a portion of the first strap piece.

86. (Previously presented) The strap according to claim 13, wherein the strap is a binding strap member and wherein the flexible strap member is a flexible binding strap member configured and arranged to be securable with the mounting strap and releasably connected to the engagement strap to adjust tightening of the binding strap about the boot when the boot is in a binding.

87. (Previously presented) The strap according to claim 23, wherein the boot-engaging strap member cooperates with the mounting strap and is configured and arranged to cooperate with an engagement strap to secure the boot within a snowboard binding.

88. (Previously presented) The first strap component according to claim 85, wherein the first strap piece cooperates with the second strap piece and is configured and arranged to cooperate with the second strap component to secure the boot within a snowboard binding.

89. (Previously presented) An apparatus for securing a snowboard boot within a binding baseplate, the apparatus being mountable to the baseplate by a first strap member and further being releasably connectable to second strap member extending from the baseplate, the apparatus comprising:

a flexible binding strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the second strap member to adjust tightening of the apparatus about the boot when the boot is in the binding, said flexible binding strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the first strap member therein.

90. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 89, further comprising the first strap member, said first strap member having a first end configured and arranged to be received within said pocket, and a second end configured and arranged to be secured to the baseplate.

91. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 90, wherein said first strap member is a variable position first strap member having a plurality of holes therein.

92. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 91, wherein said first strap member is secured within said pocket by at least one fastener which extends through one of the plurality of holes within said first strap member.

93. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 89, wherein said pocket is internally disposed within said flexible binding strap member.

94. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 89, wherein said flexible binding strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the second strap member.

95. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 94, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the second strap member for incremental adjustment of the second strap member.

96. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 89, wherein the first strap member is a mounting strap and the second strap member is an engagement strap.

97. (Previously presented) An apparatus for engaging a snowboarding boot, the apparatus being securable to a first strap member and further being releasably connectable to a second strap member, the apparatus comprising:

a flexible strap member configured and arranged to be connected to the second strap member to adjust the relative positions of the flexible strap member and the second strap member and to conform at least the flexible strap member to a portion of the surface of the snowboarding boot, said flexible strap member including a pocket which is configured and arranged to movably receive a first end of the first strap member therein.

98. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 97, further comprising the first strap member, said first strap member having a first end configured and arranged to be received within said pocket.

99. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 98, wherein said first strap member is a variable position first strap member having a plurality of holes therein.

100. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 99, wherein said first strap member is secured within said pocket by at least one fastener which extends through one of the plurality of holes within said first strap member.

101. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 97, wherein said pocket is internally disposed within said flexible strap member.

102. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 97, wherein said flexible strap member includes a buckle mounted to an outer portion thereof, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first end of the second strap member.

103. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 102, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the second strap member for incremental adjustment of the second strap member.

104. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 97, wherein the first strap member is a mounting strap and the second strap member is an engagement strap.

Please add the following new claims:

105. (New) A binding strap for securing a snowboarding boot within a binding base, the binding strap being mountable to the base and releasably connectable to an engagement strap extending from the base, the binding strap comprising:

a boot-engaging strap member configured and arranged to be releasably connected to the engagement strap and to secure the snowboarding boot to the base, the boot-engaging strap member having a contour; and

a mounting strap having a first section releasably securable to said boot-engaging strap member via at least one fastener and a second section configured and arranged to engage the binding base, said first section being disposed closer to a first end of said mounting strap than to a second end of said mounting strap;

wherein said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap are moveable relative to each other so that a length of said binding strap is selectively adjustable by a user in one of a plurality of positions, at least one of said boot-engaging strap member and said mounting strap having a hole, the hole being adapted to receive a fastener to releasably secure said first section of said mounting strap to said boot-engaging strap member in one of said plurality of positions; and

wherein, when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, said first end of said mounting strap conforms to said contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

106. (New) The binding strap according to claim 105, wherein said contour of said boot-engaging strap member conforms to a contour of the snowboarding boot when said boot-engaging strap member secures the snowboarding boot in the binding.

107. (New) The binding strap according to claim 105, wherein said contour of said boot-engaging strap member is pre-shaped so as to conform to a contour of the snowboarding boot.

108. (New) The binding strap according to claim 105, wherein said boot-engaging strap member includes a buckle mounted thereto, said buckle configured and arranged to engage a first section of the engagement strap.

109. (New) The binding strap according to claim 108, wherein said buckle is a ratcheting buckle which matingly engages the first section of the engagement strap for incremental adjustment of the binding strap.

110. (New) The binding strap according to claim 109, wherein the first section of the engagement strap includes a plurality of serrations, and wherein said buckle is adjustably engagable with the plurality of serrations.

111. (New) The binding strap according to claim 105, wherein a portion of said mounting strap is insertable through a portion of said boot-engaging strap member such that when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, said first end of said mounting strap conforms to said contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

112. (New) The binding strap according to claim 105, further comprising means for, when said mounting strap is secured to said boot-engaging strap member, conforming said first end of said mounting strap to a contour of said boot-engaging strap member.

113. (New) The binding strap according to claim 111, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an opening, said portion of said mounting strap being insertable through said opening.

114. (New) The binding strap according to claim 113, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes top and bottom walls that defines a top and a bottom of said opening.

115. (New) The binding strap according to claim 114, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides extending between said top and bottom walls.

116. (New) The binding strap according to claim 115, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes an end extending between said top and bottom walls so that said opening is open only on one end.

117. (New) The binding strap according to claim 113, wherein said portion of said boot-engaging strap member includes sides.

118. (New) The binding strap according to claim 113, wherein said opening comprises a slit.

119. (New) The binding strap according to claim 113, in combination with the binding.